

Homes of our Forefathers
in
Massachusetts

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HOMES
OF
OUR FOREFATHERS
IN MASSACHUSETTS.

FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS,
BY EDWIN WHITEFIELD.

NEW EDITION.

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DEDHAM, MASS:
E WHITEFIELD,

1892.

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TO THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED

in the

Early History of New England.

THE object of this book is to preserve and hand down to all future posterity representations of the Homes of their Forefathers. From a variety of causes they are rapidly disappearing; and before long the places that now know them will know them no more. It has been a labor of love to the undersigned to collect these mementoes of the past; having spent the greater portion of twelve years in visiting the various towns of the six New England States and making sketches of nearly eight hundred buildings, which are more or less interesting. Of these he has published, in the five volumes thus far issued, about one-half that number, at a heavy expense to himself, without the least assistance from any person except what he has derived from the sale of these books, which have so far not equalled the outlays of one kind and another by upwards of nine thousand dollars. Whether any more volumes can be issued will depend upon the interest taken in them by those who are desirous of having such a work handed down to future posterity.

This statement is made not by way of complaint, but simply because it is a fact; and that the present and future generations may know under what circumstances this collection has been gathered together. He has labored under many disadvantages which cannot be here enumerated; he has tried to do his work faithfully; and no liberties have been taken with the old buildings here represented, or with their surroundings, merely for pictorial effect. It is true that a few houses have been slightly altered from what they *are* to what they *were* originally; and sometimes an indifferent object, such as a barn, or it may be a tree, has been left out or pushed aside to show the building to better advantage; thus, if not photographically correct, they are sufficiently so for all practical purposes.

In conclusion, he returns his sincere thanks to the many ladies and gentlemen who have kindly aided him with information upon this subject.

With these remarks he respectfully offers his book to all who are interested in the early history of those who laid the foundations of this Commonwealth.

E. WHITEFIELD.

LONGFELLOW HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE.

This house, surpassing in interest almost any other in Mass. for having been so long the home of the poet Longfellow, stands on Brattle St. It was probably built by John Vassal, about 1735. During the Revolutionary War, it was for some time the headquarters of Gen'l Washington.



The Longfellow House Cambridge

Copyright by E. Whitefield 1892

WHITTIER'S BIRTHPLACE, HAVERHILL.

This house was built by Thos. Whittier, an ancestor of the Poet, who came from England in 1630, and settled first in Salisbury, removing thence to Newbury and afterwards to Haverhill, where he built a small house near the present one, which latter he erected in 1655. It originally sloped to one story at the back, but was afterwards raised to its present proportions. It stands near the turnpike leading to Amesbury, and is about 3 miles from Haverhill.

N. B.—The above information is direct from the Poet.



THE HOLMES HOUSE.

This was built by Jacob Fox, about 1730, and is famous for having been the birth-place of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. It was occupied by the Committee of Safety in 1775, and Washington also occupied it for three days.

It was taken down a few years since.



Holmes House, Cambridge. Copied by W. H. B. 1892

THE CRADDOCK HOUSE, MEDFORD.

This, the first brick house erected in New England, was built in 1634 for Mathew Craddock, a London merchant and the first Governor of the Mass. Colony. He never came to this country, although it was evidently his intention to have done so. This house is in the outskirts of Medford on the road to Malden, overlooking the Mystic valley. The walls are 18 inches in thickness. The oval openings in front were intended for port-holes, and the outside door was iron-clad. The present roof is not the original one.



The Cranock House, No. 1

Designed by J. Whitehead

THE FAIRBANKS HOUSE, DEDHAM.

This old and interesting house was built by John Fairbanks probably about 1670, that is, the main portion of it, (as the two wings are of later date). It is generally claimed to have been built in 1635; but of this there is no reliable proof. That a log house might have been erected here about that time is quite probable; for all the first houses were of course log houses, and they soon disappeared. It is now in a very dilapidated condition, and unless some repairs are speedily made, it must soon yield to the ravages of time.

The representation of it in this book is extremely accurate, and far superior to any photograph that can be taken.



From S. W. A. 9. 7. 7.

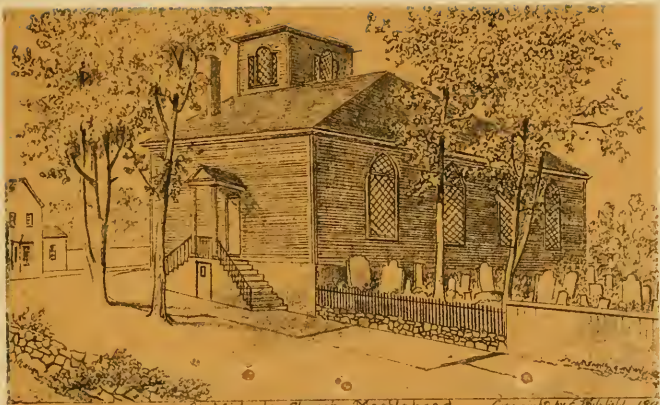
The Fairbanks House Delham.

Copied by J. W. H. Bell 1892

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MARBLEHEAD.

This was built in 1714, and is believed to be the oldest Episcopal church in Massachusetts, if not in New England. The following lines from Whittier are very appropriate :—

“Church to reverend memories dear, Loft, who tiny organ kept
Quaint in desk and chandelier ; Keys that Snetzler's hand had swept,
Bell, whose century rusted tongue, Altar, o'er whose tablet old,
Burials tolled and bridals rung. Sinai's law its thunders rolled.”



St Michael's Church, Marblehead

Copyright by C. M. L. 194

THE WAITT HOUSE, MALDEN.

This was built by John Waitt, probably about 1730. It is noted chiefly for having been the building in which the first Methodist meetings were held in Malden.



Waitt House, Maiden. Copyright by C. Whitfield 1892

THE WAYSIDE INN, SUDBURY.

“As ancient is this hostlery
As any in this land may be ;
Built in the old Colonial day,
When men lived in a grander way
With ampler hospitality.

A kind of old Hobgoblin Hall,
Now somewhat fallen to decay ;
With weather stains upon the wall,
And stairways worn, and crazy doors,
And creaking and uneven floors,
And chimneys huge and tiled and
tall.”

LONGFELLOW.



From Palace by W. 1892

The Ways de l'In. Sudbury.

Copyright by Whitfield 1892

THE WINTHROP HOUSE, IPSWICH.

This was built by John Winthrop, Jr. about 1634. Here some of his children were born and his first wife died.

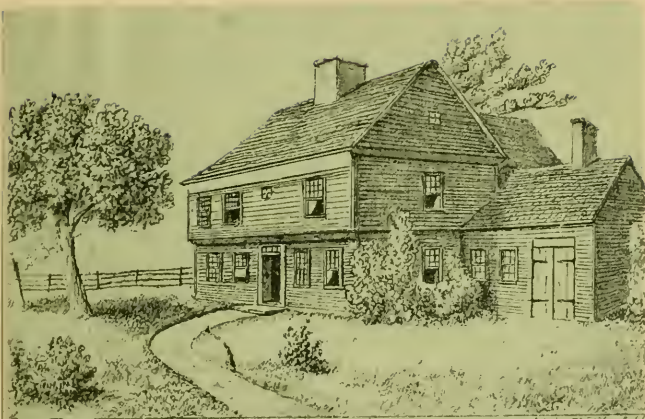
When the Winthrops migrated to Conn. this property came into the possession of the Burnham family, and it remained with them for nearly 200 years. It occupies a fine position and is still in good condition.





THE PILLSBURY HOUSE, NEWBURYPORT.

This was built by Joshua Pillsbury, about 1685, and has always been owned by his descendants. It stands on High Street, near the Belleville church.



Pillsbury House Newburyport

Copyright by F. Whitefield

THE DODGE HOUSE, IPSWICH.

This house has been sometimes called the "Rust House," and also the "Garrison House."

It is claimed to have been built in 1631 ; in which case it is the oldest house in Ipswich, and one of the very oldest in New England.



Dodge House, Ipswich.

Copyright, by E. W. Whitefield, 189.

THE LONGFELLOW HOUSE, BYFIELD.

Wm. Longfellow, ancestor of the Poet, who came from Hampshire, England, built this house in 1686. It was an ordinary, comfortable farm-house, with nothing peculiar about its architecture. It was pulled down a few years since.

Another house of similar style, standing not far from the old one, was built in 1740, and is still in good repair.



From Nature by C. W. Childs. The old Jonghiellou House Byfield. Copy. by A. W. Childs. 1878

THE SUTTON HOUSE, IPSWICH.

This was built by Thos. Firman about 1642, and afterward sold to Rev. John Norton.

It has been a long time in the possession of the Sutton family.



from Arthur S. Whitefield.

Sutton House Ipswich.

Copyright by A. S. Whitefield 1892.

THE IRON WORKS HOUSE, SAUGUS.

This house was built by the Leonard Brothers, about 1640, who here commenced the manufacture of iron, and the business was carried on here for more than 100 years. One of the brothers removed to the neighborhood of Taunton, and commenced the business there. The chimney of this house is probably the largest in New England.

This represents the house as it was before the piazza was put on.



THE DUMMER ACADEMY, BYFIELD.

This is believed to have been built by Gov. Dummer about 1730. The front of the main building is clap-boarded; the ends and wing are built of brick.



Dummer Academy, Eynoh

Copyright by C. Whitcomb

THE OTIS HOUSE, SCITUATE.

This was probably built by the ancestor of the Otis family about 1680. For more than 100 years it was used as a tavern and post-office. It stands on Front Street.



CHIPMAN HOUSE, N. BEVERLY.

This house was built by, or for, the Rev. John Chipman in 1715. He was minister here for 60 years, and the house is still in the possession of his descendants.



Chipmunk House, N. H. Revery.

Copyright by C. W. H. 1896.

BARKER HOUSE, PEMBROKE.

This house, or a portion of it, is believed to be the oldest now standing in New England.

In 1628 Josiah Barker, accompanied by Fred Davis, a colored man, started from Plymouth in a ship-boat and followed the shore until they reached the mouth of North River. This they ascended until they found a place suitable for building, and here they soon after commenced the oldest portion of this house. It has never been out of the possession of the Barker family, but I understand it has recently (1892) been abandoned, in which case it will soon be among the things that were.



sympic by I. Whitefield 1892 Barker House Pemb 189 1637

THE CLARK HOUSE, MEDFIELD.

When Medfield was burnt by the Indians, in the King Philip war, it has been generally supposed that this house alone escaped ; but this is probably a mistake. This is a very old and peculiar house, built about 1680 on the spot where a similar one stood, and removed to its present location in 1735.



Clark House, Medfield

Copyright by C. Whitefield 1892

FLETCHER HOUSE, BILLERICA.

This is supposed to be the oldest of the Fletcher houses, having been erected about 1650. There cannot be much doubt about its age, as the wide clapboards and other signs of antiquity are very apparent.



Fletcher House Billerica

Copyright by E. M. Whitford 1892

CONANT HOUSE, BEVERLY.

It has been claimed that the first native male child of the Mass. Bay Colony was born in this house. His father, Roger Conant, came to Salem in 1627.

Others say that this house was built by a son of Roger Conant; and this I think much the more probable story. At all events it is a very old house, and was undoubtedly built by a Conant.



Conant House Beverly

Copyright by J. H. H. 1874

THE HOUSE WHERE REV. GEO. WHITEFIELD
DIED, NEWBURYPORT.

In this house, built by Jno. F. Carr about 1740, the Rev. Geo Whitefield died Sep. 30th, 1770. He was a native of England, having been born in Gloucester, 1714, and became one of the most extraordinary preachers that ever lived.

The author of this book is a descendant of the preacher's uncle.

This picture represents the house in its original condition, several changes having been made in it since.

He was buried in the church on the corner of the street, where the remains are still to be seen.



Rev. George Whitefield died here, Newburyport. Designed by Whitefield 1802

THE WOOD HOUSE, NEW BEDFORD.

This was a very old and unique house, the history of which is unreliable. It was taken down in 1880.



The Wood House, New Bedford. Copyright by G. Whitfield 1892

RUMFORD HOUSE, WOBURN.

In this house the celebrated Count Rumford (Benjamin Thompson) was born. It was probably built by his grandfather about 1720. It is now used as a historical Museum.



The Runford House, Woburn. 1292 Copyright by L. Whitford

THE STANDISH HOUSE, DUXBURY.

This house is believed to have been built by Alexander, son of Capt. Standish about 1666. The Captain's house stood about half a mile distant. It was burnt down, and no vestige of it remains except the cellar.



Copyright by J. Whitefield 1892. The Standish House Duxbury.

SHOT TOWER, SOMERVILLE.

This was erected for a mill and was probably built by John Mallet about 1764. The walls of this building are of stone 2 feet thick, with an inner lining of brick. It is about 30 feet high with a diameter of fifteen feet at the base.

It stands in a commanding position in the City of Somerville.



Copyright by E. Whitehead, 1892.

Old Shot Tower
Somerville

THE SALTONSTALL HOUSE, IPSWICH.

This was built by Richard, son of Sir Rich'd SaltouSTALL about 1635, and is a very interesting old building, both externally and internally. The lower part is filled in with brick and stone, and is bullet-proof. The first Courts held in Ipswich were in this house.

It is commonly known as the Bond House.



From a drawing by E. Threlkeld. The Saltmarsh House, Ipswich. Engraved by E. Threlkeld, 1877.

THE COFFIN HOUSE, NEWBURY.

This was probably built by Tristram Coffin about 1650, before he removed to Salisbury in 1654. It is most likely that the front portion was erected much later. It stands on High St. very near the Old Town church.



The Coffin House, Newbury

Copyright by C. Whitefield


THE BARNARD HOUSE, AMESBURY.

This was probably built by Sam. Barnard, 1736. It is in a good state of preservation, and has been recently painted.



Barnard House, Amesbury

STONE BRIDGE, IPSWICH.

This is claimed to be the first stone bridge built in New England. It is a very substantial structure of two arches crossing the Ipswich River, and was erected in 1764. 



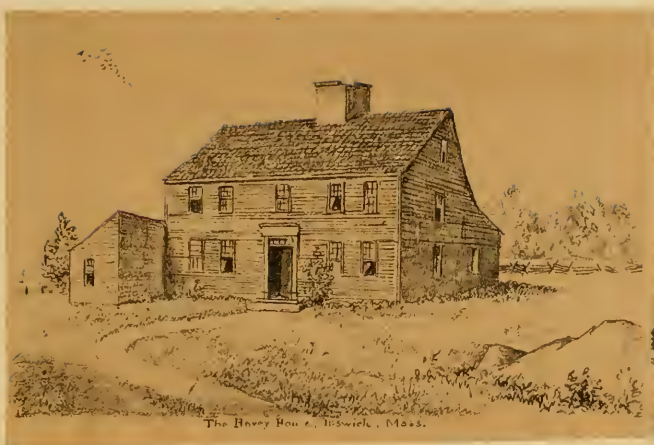
Old Stone Bridge Ipswich

sketch by E. Whitefield 1872

THE HOVEY HOUSE.

Dan. Hovey, who built this house, was among the first Ipswich settlers. He married Abigail Andrews in 1637, and he had a family of six sons and one daughter.

In 1668 he had liberty to build his house, the one represented in this picture. He no doubt lived in a log house previous to this.



The Harvey House, Ipswich, Mass.

THE COBB OR ALLERTON HOUSE, KINGSTON.

This house, or rather a portion of it, is supposed to have been built by Isaac Allerton, about 1640. It was afterwards owned by Ebenezer Cobb, who died here in 1801, aged 107 years and 8 months. It stands in the eastern part of the town near the road leading to Plymouth.

The monument in the distance is the one recently erected to Capt. Standish.

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May 11. The Allerton Cobb House, Kentucky. 1896.

THE OSGOOD HOUSE, SALISBURY.

This was built by the ancestor of the Osgood family about 1646, and is still in possession of his descendants. In the early days it was used as a Garrison House. From the upper window in the gable it is said that a woman shot an Indian. The front door is undoubtedly modern.



The Osgood House, Salisbury

Copyright by E. Whitefield 1895

WHITE OR ELLERY HOUSE, GLOUCESTER.

This was built by the Rev. John White 1703, and for some years after his death, was used as a Town House. It is very strongly built, and the chimney is of immense size. It stands on Washington Street, about a mile from the R. R. station. The balls shown in the front of the house have been removed.



White or Ellery House, Gloucester. (Copyright by G. Whitefield 1842

LYNDE HOUSE, MELROSE.

This house is supposed to have been built about 1680, about the time of the King Philip War. It stands in the southwestern part of the town, near Washington Street, and is a very interesting old building.



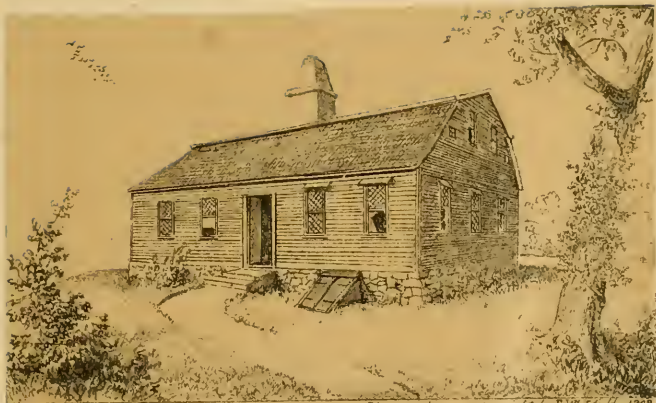
Lynde House, Melrose

Copyright by E. W. Child 1894

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THE BURTON HOUSE, PLYMOUTH.

This is a very old house but the date is uncertain, said to have been built by Wm. Harlow. The frame of the old fort is in this house. The diamond paned windows have been removed.

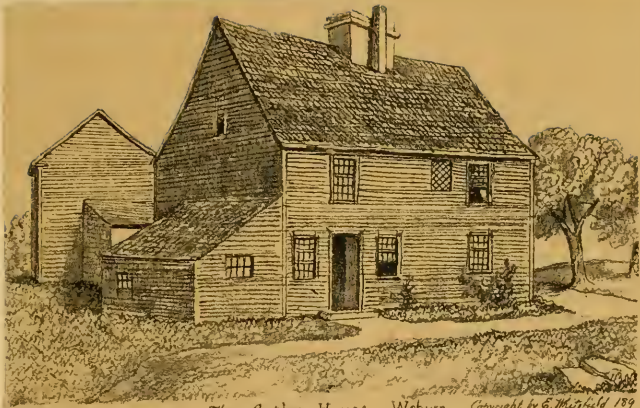


The Burton House, Plymouth.

Copyright by E. W. M. 1892

THE CUTLER HOUSE, WOBURN.

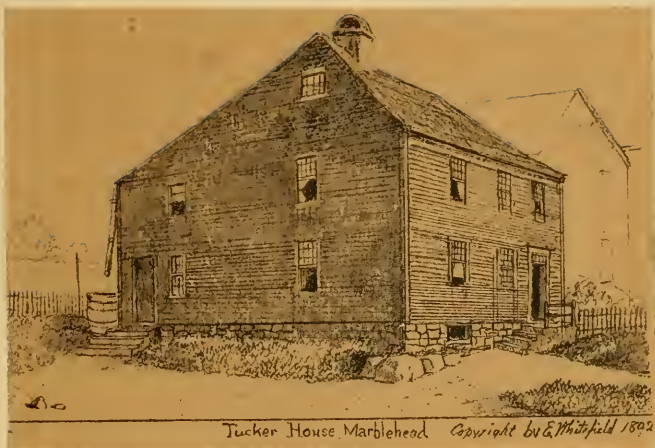
This house was built about 1690 ; but its early history is involved in doubt. In 1759 it was owned by Benj. Simmonds ; and here the Episcopal Society held their services for some time. It is the only house in Mass. in which a genuine diamond-paned window is still to be seen. It belongs to Jesse Cutler.



The Cutler House, Webow. Copyright by G. M. M. 189

TUCKER HOUSE, MARBLEHEAD.

This is a very old house on Front Street, and, if built as early as 1644, must be the oldest in Marblehead. I could find out nothing else of special interest about it, except the fact of its great age.



Tucker House Marblehead Copyright by E. Whitfield 1892

THE BRADFORD HOUSE, PLYMOUTH.

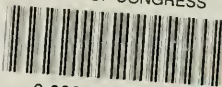
This house once stood on Town Square, and it is believed that Gov. Bradford lived in it, but whether he built it is uncertain. Like the other dwellings of the Pilgrims it has long since been swept away by the ruthless hand of Improvement.



Gov. Brattle's House, Plymouth.

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